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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of capturing and providing demographic information concerning a consumer of products to a manufacturer of such products during transactions in which the consumer utilizes a bar code reader and the Internet for product inquiries, comprising:
~~providing the consumer with a bar code symbol reader;~~
receiving a scanned scanning a uniform product code (UPC) bar code symbol on a product ~~by the consumer;~~
providing an association table in a database between the UPC symbol data and an Internet web site address affiliated with the product manufacturer;
providing loading the associated web site address to a computing device of the consumer for allowing the consumer to make a product information inquiry to said web site address;
~~providing~~ transmitting demographic information about the consumer to the product manufacturer by utilizing data packet information ~~transferred to the manufacturer as a result of the information inquiry [(.)]~~ that transfers the information inquiry to the manufacturer.
2. (Currently Amended) A ~~The method as defined in of~~ claim 1, ~~wherein~~ the bar code symbol reader is provided in the consumer's home.
3. (Currently Amended) A ~~The method as defined in of~~ claim 1, ~~wherein~~ the demographic information includes the geographic location of the consumer.
4. (Currently Amended) A ~~The method as defined in of~~ claim 1, ~~wherein~~ further comprising providing targeted e-mails to the consumer for product announcements by the manufacturer.
- 5-15. (Cancelled)

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16. (Previously Presented) A method of exchanging data between potential consumers and manufacturers using the Internet comprising:

determining at least one web site address affiliated with product identifying indicia scanned by a barcode reader utilizing a Mapping Service Provider (MSP);

providing product information to the consumer by requesting and loading a web page associated with the at least one web site address; and

transmitting demographic information about the consumer to the product manufacturer by utilizing information transferred within the web page request.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 wherein the identifying indicia is a uniform product code (UPC).

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the Mapping Service Provider (MSP) employs a mapping function to match identifying indicia to a website address from among a list of identifying indicia and web site address mappings residing in a storage device.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the web page includes at least one link to a related web page.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein transmitting demographic information about the consumer to the product manufacturer comprises employing cross application of Domain Name Service (DNS) to translate Internet Protocol (IP) mapping information transferred by the consumer.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the demographic information includes the geographical location of the consumer.

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22. (Previously Presented) A method of providing potential consumers with product information and providing manufacturers with demographic information about consumers utilizing the Internet comprising:

determining at least one web site address affiliated with a product's uniform product code (UPC) scanned by a barcode reader utilizing a mapping function to match a UPC to a website address from among a list of UPCs and web site address mappings residing in a storage device

providing product information to the consumer by requesting and loading a web page associated with the at least one product web site address; and

transmitting demographic information about the consumer to the product manufacturer *via* employing a Domain Name Service (DNS) to translate Internet Protocol (IP) mapping information transferred by the consumer when requesting a web page.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the demographic information includes the geographical location of the consumer.

24. (Withdrawn) A computer implemented method that facilitates retrieval of information, comprising:

employing a bar code scanner to scan an item; and

formulating a web-based search query using information relating to the scanned item and demographic information relating to a user of the bar code scanner.

25. (Withdrawn) A computer implemented method that facilitates providing information, comprising:

receiving a web-based search query using information relating to a bar code scanned item and demographic information relating to a user of a bar code scanner; and

transmitting information to a user in response to the query.

26. (New) The method of claim 22, more than one product code corresponds to a single website address.

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27. (New) The method of claim 22, further comprising correlating the product code information and product information in a database for receiving selective queries and generating an associated output therefrom.

28. (New) The method of claim 22, further comprising obtaining additional user queries to allow for communication of more specialized or refined information from earlier information transmitted to the user from a database.

29. (New) The method of claim 22, the mapping function is inherent in information provided in the UPC.

30. (New) The method of claim 22, the mapping function is provided in a product database wherein one or more domain name servers allow for accessing product information from a product database.

31. (New) The method of claim 29, the mapping function is provided at a user terminal, such that the matching is done with a database which is periodically updated either manually or automatically on the user terminal.

32. (New) The method of claim 16, the step of determining the at least one web site address, further comprises, transmitting TCP/IP packet information to the Mapping Service Provider (MSP) by a user terminal, the packet information including at least a field containing the UPC code and a field instructing the MSP to launch mapping program.

33. (New) The method of claim 19, the web page further includes timer information so that consumer terminal software may automatically execute the link after a predetermined period of time and generate TCP/IP packet information addressed to the web site.